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DELEGATE CLOSE-UP

Stone on convention: 'It's a circus'

By Andrea Stone
USA TODAY

NEW YORK — California delegate Oliver Stone is pledged to Jerry Brown, but his heart belongs to Norman Schwarzkopf.

The director of *JFK* and *Platoon* says the Desert Storm commander is the kind of take-charge leader the nation needs. Stone's also partial to undeclared presidential candidate Ross Perot.

Defying cliches about liberal Hollywood, Stone rails against higher taxes and spiraling entitlement programs. He favors abortion rights and cleaning up the environment, but he also likes how Perot is "into rolling up your sleeve and being a businessman."

"I am an independent," says Stone, a star in a cast of 4,228 bit players, known on this particular lot as convention delegates.

Stone was an observer at the 1988 Democratic convention, but this is his first time as a delegate.

"It's a bit like Las Vegas. It's a circus," Stone, 45, says of the convention. "I've never had so many people in my face in such a short time."

Stone says he'll hang out with the 405 others in the California delegation — the largest and perhaps most diverse — but he'll attend several invitation-only parties.

One exception: Sunday night's Kennedy family soiree at Gracie Mansion. "I wasn't invited," sniffs the JFK conspiracy theorist.

Stone yawns at Wednesday night's film tribute to Robert Kennedy. He expects "the usual ... more funeral orations," adding, "The important question is why Robert Kennedy was killed." Stone thinks there's a link to John Kennedy's assassination.

But that's another movie.

This week, Stone will give interviews to some of the 15,000 journalists here and collect material for a new film. The topic? "It's about the power of the media in politics."

AP

STONE: Likes Schwarzkopf